

REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowability of claims 8, 16, and 21. New independent claims 22 and 28, which are claims 8 and 21 rewritten in independent form, have been added and thus should be allowed.

Independent claims 1, 9, and 17 have been amended to more clearly emphasize the nozzle feature on the water injection inlet. This nozzle (illustrated at 164 in Fig. 4 of the present application) effectuates the water baffle for the embodiment of the present invention that does not contain a secondary baffle (described at page 7, ll. 7-14 of the present application).

Claims 1-7 and 9-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Stiggins, Gordon, or Riley. The Examiner has characterized these references as each showing a garbage disposal including a side water inlet capable of forming a water baffle. Although each of these references discloses a water input port for adding water to the disposer, none of these cited references discloses a nozzle capable of creating a water baffle within the disposer inlet, as is now claimed in independent claims 1 and 9. Additionally, one of skill in the art would not have been motivated to add a nozzle to any of these references:

- A nozzle is unnecessary in Stiggins, which merely adds water to the disposer to avoid manually directing sink water into the disposer. Noise reduction is not considered in Stiggins.
- A nozzle is unnecessary in Gordon, which does not create a water baffle across the entire cross-sectional area of the disposer, but rather distributes water along conduit 46 for some undisclosed and unclaimed reason. Noise reduction is not considered in Gordon.
- A nozzle is unnecessary in Riley, which controls the addition of "flushing" water to the grinding section in relation the increase or decrease of food load in the disposer. Noise reduction is not considered in Riley.

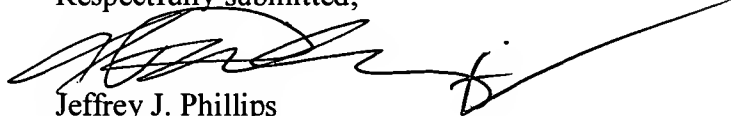
As such, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of claims 1-7 and 9-15 in light of the present claim amendments.

Claims 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Bebinger. The Examiner characterizes Bebinger as disclosing the creation of a water baffle silencer. Bebinger uses sinkwater to accumulate water on top of splash guard 21. The Examiner further states that the manner of creating a water baffle is a design choice. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this characterization. As discussed above, no prior art references of record disclose the use of a nozzle to create a water baffle within the inlet portion of a food waste disposer. As amended, claim 17 now more clearly emphasizes this nozzle feature. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of claims 17-20 in light of the present claim amendments.

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In order to facilitate the resolution of any questions presented by this paper, Applicant requests that the Examiner directly contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at 713-787-1496 to further the discussion, reconsideration, and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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